

Opened in 1995, the Coastal Center is located on an 8.4-acre barrier beach known as the Smith-Hubbell Wildlife Refuge that is situated next to the 840-acre Wheeler Wildlife Management Area (a salt marsh) at the mouth of the Housatonic River. The facility focuses on the special features and habitats of Long Island Sound.



This 2.9 mile walk was originally created by the Milford Walkers in 1985 under sponsorship by the Milford Recreation Department and is featured in the local Milford Favorite Walks book. This neighborhood and beach walk can include a visit to the CT Audubon Coastal Center.

Of the 399 species of birds identified in Connecticut, about 300 have been spotted at the Coastal Center. Check the Center's website at www.ctaudubon.org for more information about their schedule and programs. From the Center, enter the beach and walk below the high water mark as the rest of the beach and boardwalk is owned and maintained by the neighborhood association. Plan on walking during low tide as this area has suffered significant beach erosion with little beach at high tide. There are many sand bars and sea shells are plentiful. This beach has views to Stratford, Charles Island, and much of the Milford shoreline. Long Island, New York is faintly visible in the distance across Long Island Sound. Exit the beach on 3rd Avenue and follow the walk past the public Boat Ramp on Deerwood Avenue. The loop through the neighborhood returns to the beach at Grant Street and back to the parking area at the Coastal Center.

Pesticides and coastline development nearly eliminated the entire osprey population in the 1960s. Recently ospreys have been making a remarkable comeback along the Connecticut coastline including at Milford Point's nesting platform in the Charles E. Wheeler salt marsh. Ospreys mate for life and return annually to the same location to rebuild and add materials to their nest. The Ospreys soar and dive along coastal waters in search of surface-swimming fish.

Photo by CT Audubon Society



Directions and Parking:

This area can be reached via Route 1 (Bridgeport Avenue) to Naugatuck Avenue to Milford Point Road. Follow Milford Point Road until it ends at the CT Audubon Coastal Center. Drive slowly as the street narrows towards the center as there are no sidewalks in this neighborhood. Parking is available at the Center.

Permitted Activities:

Swim at your own risk as lifeguards are not provided at these beaches. Dogs are allowed on public streets and sidewalks on leash. Dogs are not permitted on the beach. Please pick up any animal waste. Canoeing and kayaking is available from the boat launch on Deerwood Avenue or at scheduled times through the Coastal Center.

For more information about this walk, contact:

Environmental Concerns Coalition
c/o Mayor's Office
(203) 783-3201
www.milforddecc.com

This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.



Information for this brochure is excerpted from the Milford Favorite Walks Book.

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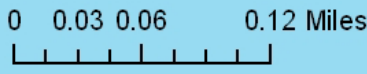
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Milford, CT



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-  Parking
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-  Wetlands
-  Open Space - All Types
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Trails
-  Streets

CT Coastal
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